REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested. Claims 1-7 are pending in the present application, with claims 1, 5, and 6 being independent. Claims 5-7 have been added by this amendment, which do not add any new subject matter.

Drawings

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate in any subsequent Office Communication, whether or not the drawings have been approved (see item 10 of the Office Action Summary).

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hirgurashi* et al. (US 6,222,593) in view of *Van Court* (US 5,917,552). This rejection is respectfully traversed insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a multi-display projector that includes an input pattern memory for storing input format parameters that specify a number of active pixels, a number of active lines, an initial active pixel, and an active initial line of input image signals having different formats. The input format

parameters are stored for each of the different formats. The multi-display projector further includes a frame memory, a display pattern memory and a display unit. The frame memory stores active image signals that are extracted from the input image signals based on the input format parameters. The display pattern memory stores display parameters, which designate a region of an image that is to be displayed. The display unit displays the region of the image by processing the active image signals that are stored in the frame memory on the basis of the display parameters.

Hirgurashi et al. is directed to an image projecting system for synthesizing onto a screen images that are projected from a plurality of projectors to obtain a very fine image.

The Examiner acknowledges on page 2 of the outstanding Office Action that *Hirgurashi* et al. does not teach: (1) an input pattern memory for storing input format parameters that specify the number of active pixels, the number of active lines, the initial active pixel, and the active initial line of input image signals having different formats; (2) that the format parameters are stored for each of the formats; or (3) a frame memory for storing active image signals extracted from the input image signals on the basis of the input format parameters. The Examiner, however, cites *Van Court* for support thereof.

7

Specifically, the Examiner alleges that *Van Court* teaches the deficiencies of *Hirgurashi* et al. and cites Fig. 3 and col. 1, lines 40-67, of *Van Court*, stating that the "measuring characteristics of the video signal" allegedly teaches the above identified features.

Van Court is directed to a video signal interface system utilizing a deductive control scheme. The video signal interface system of *Van Court* displays video signals from various sources and includes a processor that is responsive to an input video signal for measuring characteristics of the video signal. These "measured characteristics include the type of video signal (i.e., whether the signal is a broadcast video signal or a computer video signal) and the protocol of the video source (i.e., number of wires on which the input video signal is carried)," see col. 1, lines 54-57.

These "measured characteristics" of *Van Court* is not synonymous with "input format parameters," as recited in independent claim 1. Claim 1 specifically recites that the input format parameters of an input image signal specify: (a) a number of active pixels, (b) a number of active lines, (c) an initial active pixel, and (d) an active initial line. In fact, *Van Court* contains absolutely no teaching that these above identified input format parameters are stored in an input pattern memory.

8

Furthermore, *Van Court* does not even remotely suggest that input format parameters, which specify the above-identified features, are stored for each of the different formats of the input image signal. *Van Court* merely teaches that a portion of the memory 204 includes two tables 250, 252, which represent a factory table and a measurement table, respectively. The data in the factory table being predetermined and corresponds to known video sources. The factory table includes a characteristic description field that has a set of predetermined characteristic values associated with a particular known video source, and a tuning adjustment field that contains values such as brightness, contrast, and centering values. See col. 11, lines 22-55. The measurement table of *Van Court* contains a video source name field and a characteristic description field that has the information identified in Table I of *Van Court*, see col. 11, line 50, to col. 12, line 22.

As such, it should now be evident that the cited art fails to teach or suggest that input format parameters are stored for each of the different formats of an input image signal, whereby the input format parameters specify the number of active pixels, the number of active lines, the initial active pixel, and the active initial line of input image signals having arbitrary formats, as recited in independent claim 1.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met: (1) there must be some suggestion of motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings; (2) there must be a reasonable expectation of success; and (3) the prior art reference must teach or suggest all the claim limitations, see *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 48, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed.Cir.1991).

Dependent claims 2-4 should be considered allowable at least for depending from an allowable base claim. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

New claims 5 and 6 should be considered allowable at least because the cited art fails to teach or suggest the combination of elements including the features identified above with respect to claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, this application appears to be in condition for allowance and the Examiner is, therefore, requested to reexamine the application and pass the claims to issue.

10

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Martin Geissler (Reg. 51,011) at telephone number (703) 205-8000, which is located in the Washington, DC area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.
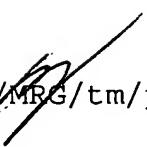
Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
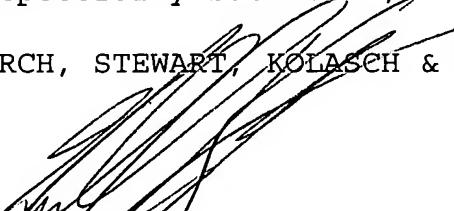
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